

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Nov. 8, 2021 – Minutes

Present: R. Franzen, S. Mordini, J. Francisco, A. Workman, and H. Kierzek

Absent: A. Witczak, C. Schlender

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Legal posting of the Agenda has been met. Mordini motioned and Francisco seconded approval of the Oct. 11 meeting minutes. Motion carried. Workman moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.

Action Items

a. Discuss and consider adoption of final 2022-2026 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Campbell Park is the “elephant in the room.” Francisco said that Campbell Park needed a referendum as an entity for the community to vote on. Francisco reported on a discussion of the CORP group to put in crosswalk by the bridge on 2nd Ave, then come up the south side of the street as opposed to the north side (eight feet less elevation). It would require the landowners putting in sidewalks. Kierzek suggested the Teen Challenge Park in Upper Ochsner Park be put in the CORP plan. Franzen moved that the CORP plan be accepted with the addition of the Teen Challenge Park in the 2022 Capital Projects, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

b. Discuss and consider preliminary designs for Jackson Reserve Park and Conservancy lands Hardy reported on the conceptual development and construction currently happening on 4-6 16-unit facilities on the Jackson property followed by duplexes. Single family homes would be constructed last, followed by a stormwater retention facility. Green areas are all conservancy area. Fall zone of cell tower outlined in red on the map. Have a little over 5 acres of park land, but 1.75 acres are in the designated fall zone so nothing can be built in that area. Access road to the cell tower needs to be maintained, so that will serve as a walking area to the park with limited parking.

The Conservancy Concept Plan included a baseball diamond/soccer-frisbee-open field, with Hardy recommending the playground/picnic shelter being built first to accommodate families moving into the new facilities. Plan also includes hiking/mountain biking trails, as well as a pump track. There will be a cul de sac on the south end that may have access as well, with additional stormwater retention, hiking trail, and additional mountain biking trails. South end also includes a flood zone that could be planted with wetland plantings. Impact fees are arriving quickly to spend. Franzen suggested that bathrooms should be made a priority right away, seconded by Francisco. Hardy acknowledged that parking will be a need, probably to the west of the fall zone of the cell tower (~20 spaces), suggesting that most people driving to the park would drive to the trails. Trails depicted are just placeholders; Hardy noted a planning/engineering firm or other entity would need to plan the route. Now would be a good time to make contacts and fundraise for getting a mountain bike trail firm. Urban Forestry grant (word to be received in December) includes clearing out the invasive trees and replanting with desirable species (buckthorn needs to be removed). Hardy walked the property with Todd Persche of the Baraboo Range Preservation Association to address the invasives and retain some of the higher quality natural areas. The 2022 budget has the playground in it and the infrastructure portion of the picnic shelter/bathrooms from early impact fees.

Informational Items

a. Staff Report submitted by Hardy.

Revenues were \$8,785.93 for the month of October 2021.

1) Review Park and Zoo Projects

Zoo is slowing down, but nice weather is keeping donations higher than normal. \$500 donations received from Modern Woodmen of America to plant trees in the dog park. Park shelters have been winterized/closed for the season. An application has been put in for a new riverfront park near the Bear-A-Boo daycare site under redevelopment. It is a Brownfield site so needs cleanup before a park is put in (playground/shelter/community plaza/additional kayak launch and possible bridge), plus relocating a substation and streambank stabilization (\$10-\$12 million grant). The library also submitted a grant for the expansion. Awardees will be notified in December.

2) Review Recreation and Pool Programs

Hardy submitted a grant application to ARPA for the building of the pool (\$8 million project).

b. Subcommittee reports

1) Friends of Baraboo Parks and Zoo (Witczak)

Hardy reported on behalf of Witczak. Friends of the Parks would like to be involved in Jackson Park. The Chili Cook-off occurred two weeks ago; it was a great success and made its fundraising goal (\$2,500 matched by Modern Woodmen of America). The Challenge Park is $\frac{1}{3}$ funded at this point. Splashpad has raised 75% of the \$450,000 goal. Projected \$80,000 estimated for concrete cost, and Jared Beckwith had initially offered to cover the cost, but concrete has been going up significantly. Vortex is supplying the sprayer equipment and their costs have increased 6%. Jimmy Kimble is no longer involved in the Skatepark project, but Trent Capaul is now organizer of the Friends of the Skatepark. They have raised \$20,000 of the \$300,000 goal.

2) Bicycle Advisory Committee

Workman and Mordini reported on the recommended (preferred) route of the GSST to be presented to Brian Simmert of Sauk county during the committee's regular meeting on Nov. 11 at 5:30 pm at City Hall. Hardy projected the map and Workman/Mordini reviewed the route options.

Next scheduled meeting: Dec. 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Mordini motioned and Franzen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Workman, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Committee